(d) whether it is also a fact that a large number of Regional Passport officers, ARPO's Office Superintendent, Stenographers, Senior Clerks have been working in Delhi Passport Office for the last 10 years despite norms of tenure of working at one place;

(e) whether Government propose to transfer such officials to give chance to other officials to get acquainted with working of Delhi Passport Office; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MNISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):

(a) to (f) No tenure of stay has been formally fixed for officials of Passport offices. Administrative guidelines regulating transfer of CPO employees, which will include tenure of officials in various grades, are being finalised.

It is a fact that a number of officials in the Regional Passport Office, Delhi have been in position for over 10 years. Their cases will be reviewed in the light of the transfer policy being finalised.

The work of the POs including RPO Delhi, involves different aspects some of which require specialised training and experience whereas others are of a routine nature and can be performed by new recruits.

Reference from M.Ps. received in Passport Office in Delhi

194. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some references from M.Ps. taking up grievances of general Public have been received in Regional Passport Office of Delhi during May to December, 1992;

(b) if so, the details of these references month-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that none of these references have either been replied or acknowledged;

(d) whether any instructions exist for disposal of these references in a time bound period;

(e) whether these instructions are based on instructions basically issued from Parliamentary Affairs Department;

(f) whether Government propose to call for information from all offices every month watching the disposal of these references; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):

(a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-Pak Border and other Disputes

195. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent past border disputes between India and Pakistan and infiltration of Pakistan nationals have been on the increase;

(b) whehter Government have taken up the issues with Pakistan; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):

(a) Incidents of firing and infiltration along the Indo-Pak border continue to take place.

(b) and (c) Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan repeatedly emphasising the need to keep the situation along the border under control.